

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th June 1892.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
1	"Ahmadí "	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	15th June 1892. 27th May and 13th June 1892.
2	"Bankura Darpan "	Bankura	.....	
3	"Kaliyuga "	Calcutta	.....	
4	"Kasipur Nivási "	Kasipur, Barisál	280	
5	"Navamihir "	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
6	"Ulubaria Darpan "	Ulubaria	700	
Tri-monthly.				
7	"Hitakari "	Kushtia	800	
Weekly.				
8	"Bangavási "	Calcutta	20,000	18th June 1892.
9	"Banganivási "	Ditto	8,000	17th ditto.
10	"Burdwán Sanjivani "	Burdwan	335	14th ditto.
11	"Cháruvártá "	Sherepore, Mymensingh	400	13th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakásh "	Dacca	2,200	19th ditto.
13	"Education Gazette "	Hooghly	825	17th ditto.
14	"Grámvási "	Ramkristopore, Howrah	1,000	20th ditto.
15	"Hindu Ranjiká "	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	15th ditto.
16	"Hitavádí "	Calcutta	.....	
17	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	Berhampore	.....	
18	"Navayuga "	Calcutta	500	16th ditto.
19	"Prakriti "	Ditto	.....	18th ditto.
20	"Pratikár "	Berhampore	609	17th ditto.
21	"Prithivi "	Calcutta	.....	
22	"Rangpur Dikprakásh "	Kakinia, Rangpur	.....	
23	"Sahachar "	Calcutta	800-1,000	15th ditto.
24	"Sahayogi "	Barisál	342	
25	"Sakti "	Dacca	.....	
26	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya "	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	
27	"Samaya "	Calcutta	3,000	17th ditto.
28	"Sanjivani "	Ditto	4,000	18th ditto.
29	"Sansodhini "	Chittagong	.....	17th ditto.
30	"Sáraswat Patra "	Dacca	300	18th ditto.
31	"Som Prakásh "	Calcutta	600	20th ditto.
32	"Srimanta Sadagar "	Ditto	.....	
33	"Sudhákar "	Ditto	3,100	17th ditto.
34	"Sulabh Samáchar "	Ditto	.....	
Daily.				
35	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká "	Calcutta	500	15th, 16th, 20th and 21st June 1892.
36	"Bengal Exchange Gazette "	Ditto	.....	17th and 20th to 23rd June 1892.
37	"Dainik-o-Samáchar Chandriká "	Ditto	1,000	19th to 23rd ditto.
38	"Samvád Prabhákar "	Ditto	1,500	17th, 18th and 20th to 22nd June 1892.
39	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya "	Ditto	300	17th, 18th and 20th to 23rd ditto.
40	"Sulabh Dainik "	Ditto	.....	17th 18th, and 20th to 23rd June 1892.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
41	"Dacca Gazette "	Dacca	.....	20th June 1892.



No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
42	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchár Patrika."	Darjeeling	50	16th June 1892.
43	"Kshatriya Patriká" ... ..	Patna	250	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Aryávarta" ... ..	Calcutta	750	
45	"Bihar Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore	500	16th ditto.
46	"Bhárat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	1,200	9th to 16th June 1892.
47	"Champaran Chandrika" ... ..	Bettiah	350	
48	"Desí Vyápári" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
49	"Hindí Bangavási" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
50	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ... ..	Ditto	500	13th June 1892.
51	"Uchit Baktá" ... ..	Ditto	4,500	
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
52	"Al Punch" ... ..	Bankipore	.....	
53	"Anis" ... ..	Patna	.....	
54	"Calcutta Punch" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
55	"Darunsaltanat and Urdu Guide" ... ..	Ditto	340	17th ditto.
56	"General and Gauhariyasi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	20th ditto.
57	"Mehre Monawar" ... ..	Muzaffarpur	.....	
58	"Raisul-Akhbari-Murshidabad" ... ..	Murshidabad	150	
59	"Setare Hind" ... ..	Arrah	.....	
60	"Shokh" ... ..	Monghyr	.....	
<b>URIYA.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
61	"Asha" ... ..	Cuttack	165	
62	"Echo" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
63	"Pradip" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
64	"Samyabadi" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
65	"Taraka and Subhavártá" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
66	"Utkalprána" ... ..	Mayurbhunj	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
67	"Dipaka" ... ..	Cuttack	.....	
68	"Samvad Váhika" ... ..	Balasore	200	26th May 1892.
69	"Uriya and Navasamvád" ... ..	Ditto	420	25th ditto.
70	"Utkal Dipiká" ... ..	Cuttack	420	28th ditto.
<b>PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.</b>				
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
71	"Paridarshak" ... ..	Sylhet	480	13th June 1892.
72	"Silchar" ... ..	Silchar	500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
73	"Srihatta Mihir" ... ..	Sylhet	332	





## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 21st June, says that, if the *Pioneer* is to be believed, attempts are being made to bring over the eldest son of the Raja of Sikkim from Thibet, where he is now staying, and give him his father's throne. But he will probably refuse to leave Thibet. In that case, the throne ought to be due to the second son of the Raja; but Sir Charles Elliott does not seem to like him, and it is probable that the State will be ultimately annexed to the British Empire. Lately, the Raja requested the favour of an interview with the Lieutenant-Governor, but was refused. It is said in some quarters that the Raja will have to interview Mr. Nolan, the Commissioner of the Division. The Raja might as well have been told to interview an orderly of the Lieutenant-Governor.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 21st, 1892.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

The District Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, in the Radhanagar Harisankirtan case.

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 7th June, refers to the local *Harisankirtan* case (see Report on Native Papers for week ending 18th June, paragraph 2) and observes as follows:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 7th, 1892.

It was a great mistake on the part of the District Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, to bring this case, and it is greatly to be regretted that such a mistake has been committed not by a constable, or a head-constable, or a Sub-Inspector, but by the head of the Burdwan police. In instituting a prosecution against a respectable party, he did not at all think of the probability or otherwise of his being able to establish it by means of evidence. Yet this is the man who is entrusted with the duty of protecting the honour and respectability of the people! He ought to conduct himself with caution in future.

3. The *Pratihar*, of the 17th June, learns in the report of the Police Committee that reforms will be made in the Police by the abolition of certain outposts and police stations, and by the expenditure of the money thus saved, in securing the services of able men. This arrangement may be attended with good results. But it would be bad to abolish important police stations like those in the district of Murshidabad for the sake of mere economy. The writer recommends the maintenance of the outpost at Saktipur in that district.

PRATIKAR,  
June 17th, 1892.

Police outposts in the Murshidabad district.

4. A correspondent of the *Samay*, of the 17th June, complains of oppression by *gundas* in Calcutta. The residents of Nimtola Street, of whom the correspondent is one, are sore troubled by these *gundas*. They are on terms of familiarity with the constables, and people do not therefore get any redress against them at the hands of the police. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

SAMAY,  
June 17th, 1892.

*Gundas* in Calcutta.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

5. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th June, has the following regarding Mr. Nicholls, Judge of Benares:—

SAHACHAR,  
June 15th, 1892.

According to the *Morning Post* newspaper of Allahabad, Mr. Nicholls, Judge of Benares, was not in a proper frame of mind when he tried the Benares riot case. The trial which arose out of the Benares temple riot severely taxed his brain, and as *badmashes* repeatedly threatened to take his life during the course of the trial, it was no wonder that his mind was unhinged. This, in plain language, means that Mr. Nicholls will do well to place himself under medical treatment. Sessions Judges possess plenary powers and enjoy the confidence of the people. Whenever any one of the former is guilty of any irregularity, he should be removed from the service. In the course of the trial of one of the temple cases, Mr. Nicholls did not take the depositions of witnesses, and inflicted severe punishment on the accused solely on the strength of depositions given in the Magistrate's Court. The Government Pleader pointed out the irregularity, but the Judge paid no heed to him. Again, heavy fines were inflicted on the accused in order to enable Government to make good the loss which it had sustained in the riot. The High Court of Allahabad came to

Mr. Nicholls, Judge of Benares.



the rescue of the people, and even Sir Auckland Colvin, not much noted for his sympathy with the people, was obliged to interfere. As a consequence, fines were remitted, sentences were reduced, and a respectable man, who was innocent in the eyes of the people, was released. And after that Mr. Nicholls, it is said, paid a visit to that man in his house under instructions from Government. The accounts of the Benares trial have taken the writer with surprise and astonishment. No judicial officer, possessing even a very ordinary knowledge of the law, can be guilty of such conduct as that of Mr. Nicholls. A warrant was issued in the name of a witness. There were two persons answering to the name, and the police brought up the wrong party. When the error was discovered, we should have expected that the right party would be sent for. But no—the Judge ordered the chief witness for the prosecution to depose in place of the proper witness! An occurrence like this is sufficient to make even the *kázis* gape in wonder within their graves. The pekul-leaf incident is then referred to as putting the writer in mind of such cases as the following:—Mr. Fletcher, who was some years ago Sessions Judge of Bankura, tried cases sitting on the branch of an asvattha (*Ficus religiosa*) tree, and putting on ornaments belonging to the wife of the Bankura Munsif. The freaks of Mr. Hastings (?) of Hooghly are still in men's minds. He was once angry with his sarishtadar and actually chased him, ruler in hand. The sarishtadar fled, and the saheb pursued. The chase continued for nearly an hour, after which Mr. Hastings said—'You are a good man, come, I will not beat you.' The fact is that European officials of this class think that they can do anything in the presence of the natives; but such freaks on the part of European officials are not tolerated in these days. The other day Mr. Windsor, who was till lately Joint-Magistrate of Serampore, had to pacify a railway gateman with money for having beaten him. But Mr. Nicholls seems to have no equal. The *Morning Post* says that Mr. Nicholls is not responsible for his actions. But that he is responsible for his actions is clear from his attempt to hide the fact of his not having written his judgment on the day on which his sentence was passed. The Government Counsel in the Benares case said that judgment was not written on the day on which the sentence was passed by the Judge; and yet a judgment, bearing the date on which the sentence was passed, was found among the papers. This shows that Mr. Nicholls was not after all so irresponsible for his acts as the *Morning Post* takes him to be. The offence of which Mr. Nicholls is guilty is of a graver nature than that which led to Babu Surendra Nath Banerji's expulsion from the Civil Service. The writer is anxious to see how Sir Auckland Colvin deals with Mr. Nicholls.

SAHACHAR,  
June 15th, 1892.

Jury trial.

6. The same paper has the following:—

According to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* newspaper, the large number of acquittals in the Syam Bazar riot case have led the Lieutenant-Governor to think that riot cases ought not to be tried by jury. His Honour has, therefore, addressed the Government of India on the subject, and that Government has in its turn written to the Judges of the Calcutta High Court for opinion. And it is a matter of wonder and regret that the majority of the Judges have given their opinion against the jury system. The matter is now under the consideration of the Supreme Government. This has not, on the whole, surprised the writer. Measures like the one now proposed are improper, but the causes of which they are the effects are well known. Even after the Sepoy Mutiny, Lord Canning passed in 1859 a truly liberal code of laws. Sir James Outram was an officer under the East India Company, who fought in the Mutiny, and was shut up within the Residency at Lucknow. Nevertheless, said this hero:—'Notwithstanding all this I love and trust the sepoys.' But a class of Anglo-Indian officers have now made their appearance, who have forgotten the liberality of the old Bengal Civilians. The country is advancing: but the rights of the people are being curtailed instead of being extended. A Military Government rules in Prussia. But even there the late Frederick William III said to his soldiers—'Do not commit oppression on my civilian subjects; it is true, you defend my honour in the field of battle, but it is these civilians, and not I, who maintain you'. Government, in this country, knows perfectly well in what relation the police here stands to the people, and yet it implicitly believes the representations of the police and looks upon every case of acquittal of an accused person as a case of failure of justice. But are not they fit to be protected



who pay for the livelihood of every officer of Government, from the Viceroy down to the ordinary police constable? Is it not proper not to look upon a man who has been acquitted by a court of justice as a guilty person who has been let off, but an innocent man who has been oppressed? The Syam Bazar riot cases were tried by Mr. Rampini, who must have acquiesced in the verdict of the jury, for he would have otherwise made reference to the High Court. It is hoped that the *Amrita Bazar's* information is not correct. The public have begun to respect Sir Charles Elliott. The Chaukidari and the Municipal Bills have raised suspicions in their minds, and the proposed tampering with jury trial will, if the proposal is carried out, deeply wound their feelings.

Jury trial.

7. The *Navayuga*, of the 16th June, says:—

NAVAYUGA,  
June 16th, 1892.

It is the impression of the writer that trial by jury often leads to failure of justice, especially in mufassal trials, the reason being that just and educated men, possessing a knowledge of the law, are not available in the mufassal. Many curious facts relating to trial by jury came out in the recent Dacca bribery case. The writer has always been of opinion that the system of trial by jury stands in need of modification, and he is, therefore, glad to learn that the Lieutenant-Governor has entered into a correspondence with the Viceroy on the subject.

8. The *Banganivasi*, of the 17th June, says that Sir Charles Elliott seems resolved on the abolition of the jury system from the mufassal, because the system, in the opinion of

BANGANIVASI,  
June 17th, 1892.

The jury system.

His Honour, causes failure of justice. Will Sir Charles Elliott, then, deprive the people of Bengal of all their privileges?

9. The same paper says that if lawless conduct like that of Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of Mymensingh, had been seen in a Native Magistrate, the country would have been convulsed by the thunderings of the authorities, and the officer

BANGANIVASI.

Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of Mymensingh.

himself would have been at once degraded or dismissed, and his countrymen for fifty-two generations upwards would have been grossly abused. The *Pioneer*, too, is keeping silence in regard to Mr. Phillips. Does not its cursed eyes see any faults in any of its own countrymen? It seems that its cursed eyes acquire extraordinary power when required to see the faults of natives. Mr. Phillips' oppressions transcend description, and Sir Charles Elliott, it is hoped, will no longer remain indifferent in the matter because the officer concerned is a European.

10. The same paper says that the amalgamation of the Chuadanga subdivision with the Meherpur subdivision of the Nadia district has proved a source of great inconvenience to the people of the former place. The head-quarters of the Meherpur subdivision, besides

BANGANIVASI.

Effect of the abolition of the Chuadanga subdivision of the Nadia district.

being unhealthy, are 80 to 90 miles distant from many places in the late Chuadanga subdivision, so that people wishing to institute suits must be away from home for a week or a fortnight. People in Chuadanga have therefore almost ceased instituting cases, police cases alone being sent up to Meherpur for disposal.

11. A correspondent of the *Prakriti*, of the 18th June, says that the abolition of the Chuadanga subdivision and its amalgamation with the Meherpur subdivision has resulted

PRAKRITI,  
June 18th, 1892.

Complaints from Chuadanga.

in great disadvantage to the people of the abolished subdivision. Chuadanga was made the head-quarters of a subdivision 34 years ago, in order to put an end to the lawlessness which was then raging there in consequence of quarrels between the people and the indigo-planters. Since then the people of that part of the country have, it is true, enjoyed security of life and property, but there are still many indigo-planters there, and yet the subdivisional head-quarters have been moved to Meherpur. There are places within the abolished subdivision which are so many as 40 to 45 miles distant from Meherpur. And there are places there which are full of jungle and infested with wild beasts. These inconveniences deter many Chuadanga people from instituting suits at Meherpur. There are 37 cattle-pounds within the Chuadanga area which Government has let out for Rs. 7,000 a year. But the people have to pay Rs. 21,000 for them, viz., Rs. 7,000 to Government, Rs. 7,000 to the *ijárdars* and Rs. 7,000 to the men



of the indigo-planters who bring cattle to the pounds for the sake of the rewards which they receive by so doing. No one looks into these matters, and the people are consequently oppressed. The inefficiency of the local Munsif is such that within the last five months, about 1800 cases have accumulated on his file.

SANJIVANI,  
June 18th, 1892.

Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of  
Mymensingh.

12. The *Sanjivani*, of the 18th June, has the following:—

Srimati Jahnabi Chaudhurani and Srimati Bindubasini Chaudhurani of Santosh, the Delowar mother and son, Babu Mahim Chandra Rai of Atharbári, Babu Prasanna Chandra Chakravarti of Dhalá, in the Mymensingh district, have all been already made to feel Mr. Phillips' power. And that officer has now set about making Raja Suryya Kanta Acharyya feel his magisterial prestige, but the Raja does not appear very willing to submit to the operation. The Raja is constructing a house in the Mymensingh town, and in order to extend its quadrangle has acquired a piece of land adjoining the new building, but separated from it on the east by a narrow lane and drain belonging to the Municipality. The Raja acquired the lane and the drain from the Municipal authorities by giving them in exchange a plot of land in another place. Besides this, the Raja also undertook to make the municipal drains on the three sides of his house *pucca* on condition of the municipality giving him a strip of land 18 inches wide along the drain on the north side of his building, and made over to the Chairman of the Municipality a sum of Rs. 1,000 for that purpose. That the Raja's acquisition of the lane and of the drain passing through it would not in any way inconvenience the public was ascertained by the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Rajani Prasad Niyogi, who was deputed by Mr. Phillips to investigate the matter. But Mr. Phillips has still thought it right to institute against the Raja a case under the Penal Code for obstruction of drainage, and that case is pending before Mr. Halifax, Assistant Magistrate. The Raja's application to the High Court for the transfer of the case has been rejected on the ground that it is as yet premature to interfere in the matter. The case being *sub judice*, the writer will not now divulge the secret underlying the whole affair, nor will he now make any comments on the missing and the final depositions of the Deputy Magistrate Babu Suryya Kumar Das.

SANJIVANI.

The jury system.

13. The same paper says that, according to the *Statesman* newspaper, the Bengal Government intends aiming a blow at the jury system. That Government has asked the permission of the Government of India to curtail the powers of jurors in this province, on the ground that jurors have been known to abuse their powers in some instances. The Municipal and Chaukidari Bills have been framed with a view of depriving the Bengalis of the small share in the administration of the province that has been given to them, and the abolition of the jury system will deprive them of some privileges which they have enjoyed in another direction. Thus Sir Charles Elliott seems determined to deprive the Bengalis of all their privileges.

SANJIVANI.

Road cess oppression in Midnapore.

14. The same paper has the following:—For some years past the petty zamindars and lakhirajdars in the district of Midnapore have had to put up with considerable oppression and injustice in connection with the realisation of the road cess in that district. That public attention has not been sufficiently drawn to the matter is because they are, as a class, quiet and inoffensive people who do not venture to make complaints against the officials of Government, and also because the wealthiest and the most influential zamindars in that district, like Messrs. Watson & Co., and the Rajas of Nárájol and Mahisadal enjoy a perfect immunity from such oppression. But the confession which Babu Upendra Chandra Mukherji, the Deputy Collector in charge of road cess work in Midnapore for the last five or six years has now been forced to make, both before the Collector and before the Divisional Commissioner, that the accounts and returns which he has been submitting all these years are all full of errors, has led to the discovery that though a considerable sum in excess of the amount due on account of the road cess has been collected from the parties liable to pay it, they are still shown as being heavily in arrears, and that for the purpose of recovering these arrears of the cess, notices and



and certificates are being issued against them. The most flagrant irregularities have occurred in the collection of the cess on account of lakhiraj and debottar properties owned by several co-sharers. Now, it is well known that in such cases the law permits the sale of the whole property for the default of any one among the co-sharers as well as the realisation by means of the certificate procedure of the whole amount of the cess from any one among them. If, for example, the amount of the cess due on account of an *ijmáli mahal* be Rs. 50, and there are ten co-sharers, any one among them may be made by having a certificate made out against him to pay the amount. Now, supposing this co-sharer actually pays the amount, and each of the other nine co-sharers also voluntarily pays the amount due from him, the amount which is realised is not Rs. 50, but 50+45, that is Rs. 95. Again, parties have had often to pay twice over the amount of the cess due from them, because certificates have been issued against them in consequence of some error in the accounts and in disregard of the fact that they voluntarily paid their dues. The large arrears shown in the account books are also due to the same cause. These cases illustrate how more than the amount of the cess due has been realised from the lakhijardars and others in the Midnapore district. People in the mufassal have put up with this state of things because they think it better to pay twice over than undergo the trouble and expense of coming to the district head-quarters and making representations to the authorities, which too often lead to no result. The careless manner in which road cess work is being done by the authorities is proving the ruin of many poor men and bringing reproach on the British Government.

15. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 19th June, is glad to learn that Mr. Justice Trevelyan of the Calcutta High Court has refused permission to the issue of a warrant for the purpose of arresting a Hindu lady. The Judge has very properly remarked that it is not right to adopt all on a sudden against Hindu ladies such a harsh process as a warrant of arrest.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 19th, 1892.

16. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 19th June, says that a case in which Raja Babu Barada Prasanna Som, Srinath Rai Bahadur, Babu Rupa Lal Dass, and others are parties, was argued in the Court of Babu Barada Prasanna Som, Second Subordinate Judge of Dacca. The case was for the possession of a *chur* and was argued for six or seven days, after which it appeared, from the manner of the Subordinate Judge, that he had not understood the case. The pleaders thereupon asked the Subordinate Judge whether or not he found it difficult to understand the case, and being answered in the affirmative, asked leave of the Court to transfer the case, and leave was at once granted. By confessing his inability to understand the case, Barada Babu has shown real greatness of mind. But it is to be hoped that Barada Babu will show similar greatness of mind in other cases, thereby sparing himself much labour and giving suitors the opportunity of obtaining justice.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 19th, 1892.

Mr. Phillips of Mymensingh.

17. A correspondent of the same paper has the following about Mr. Phillips, Magistrate of

DACCA PRAKASH.

Mymensingh:—

No one will deny that Mr Phillips is an experienced and powerful official. But all his good points notwithstanding, he has proved himself before the Mymensingh public as an oppressive Magistrate. When he first came to Mymensingh, it was rumoured that the secret of his policy was to put down the most respectable and influential men in the district; and what rumour said has been proved by his own actions. Jahnavi and Bindu Basini Chaudhurani, zamindars of Kagmari, Visvesvari Devya, zamindar of Jafarsahi, and Babu Sarat Chandra Roy, Talukdar of Sararchar, have already become victims of his oppression. The cases of Raja Suryya Kanta Acharyya Bahadur, the Devya Mahasaya of Dhalá and the Dewan of Jangalbari are also well known. No one dares to stand against the supreme ruler of the district. Whatever act of oppression is done in benighted Mymensingh is done with impunity. Since the agitation against Mr. Phillips's acts of oppression began, the papers relating to those acts have come to be regarded as confidential State papers and have been locked up in Mr. Phillips's confidential box. A mukhtar of Raja Surjya Kanta applied to Mr. Phillips for a copy of a certain court paper. The application was rejected, and not even a copy of the order rejecting the application was given. The



object of the refusal to give copies of the papers relating to his case is to prevent Raja Suryya Kanta from proving in the High Court that Mr. Phillips's proceedings against him were the outcome of private malice. Mr. Phillips's exhibition of himself in the Rajshahi district has not yet disappeared from the public mind, and he is figuring again in fresh acts of injustice and oppression in the district of Mymensingh. It is greatly to be regretted that even a man like Raja Suryya Kanta, who has made himself memorable by various acts of public munificence, should be sorely troubled on account of Mr. Phillips. People now see that the desire to see himself avenged on those who have incurred his displeasure is the feeling that inspires all his acts.

GRAMVASI,  
June 20th, 1892.

Jury trial.

18. The *Gramvasi*, of the 20th June, has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor dislikes jury trial. It is His Honour's impression that jury trial is responsible for cases of gross failure of justice in the mufassal. The writer admits that jury trial occasionally causes inconvenience, but that inconvenience is due not to the system of trial by jury, but to the faulty way of selecting jurymen. No failure of justice can possibly take place if the local authorities take care to select competent men as jurors. Trial by Judges and Magistrates is certainly good, but does not justice sometimes miscarry in consequence of the incompetency of the judiciary? Be that as it may, there can be no doubt about the desirability of important Sessions cases being tried by five competent jurors rather than by a single Judge. It will be hardly proper, therefore, to abolish the jury system. But it will not be a bad thing to modify the existing rules for the selection of jurymen.

(c)—*Jails*.

BANGANIVASI,  
June 17th, 1892.

The Jail Resolution.

19. The *Banganivasi*, of the 17th June, has the following observations on the Jail Resolution:—

1. Sir Charles Elliott has given credit to Dr. Lethbridge for the decrease in the death-rate among prisoners which has taken place in the course of the last few years. The writer is not willing to deprive Dr. Lethbridge of any credit which may belong to him in this respect, but he must point out that it was Mr. O'Donnell's agitation in Parliament on the subject of jail mortality in India which compelled the authorities here to pay more attention to jail administration. It is, therefore, for the public to decide whether the credit for the decrease in jail mortality should be given to Dr. Lethbridge or to Mr. O'Donnell. It cannot, however, be denied that Dr. Lethbridge effected great improvements in jail administration during the period of his incumbency as Inspector-General of Jails. When Dr. Lethbridge took charge of the Jail Department, the death-rate among prisoners was 51 per thousand; it is so low as 37 now.
2. Sir Charles Elliott has failed to account for the sudden increase in the number of persons admitted to jail in the course of the year 1891, as there was no scarcity in the country and as police activity cannot have suddenly increased. But had not the increase in question anything to do with the Lieutenant-Governor's strict injunctions to the Magistracy to punish accused persons?
3. Sir Charles Elliott has noticed with sorrow the increase in the number of short-term prisoners. His Honour seems to like the detention of prisoners in jail for long terms and their employment upon hard work. But the writer fails to reconcile the kindness of disposition shown in His Honour's recommendation for the release of dying prisoners with the severity displayed in his instruction to the Magistracy to inflict rigorous imprisonment whenever possible.
4. How is it that in spite of the high prices which prevailed last year the expenses of Government in the jails were smaller than in preceding years? Did Sir Charles Elliott prescribe for prisoners the ascetic scale of living which he has recommended for schoolboys?



## (d)—Education.

The zilla school question.

20. The *Sudhakar*, of the 17th June, has the following :—SUDHAKAR,  
June 17th, 1892.

It is a matter of regret that our Government should seek to leave us alone after having led us so far up the ladder of higher education. It lacks funds for the performance of its duty towards its subjects, but it wastes money like water on the frontier defences, on unnecessary frontier quarrels, on the formation of volunteer corps, and for the sake of filling the pockets of its own countrymen. The orders issued by the Bengal Government in regard to the zillah schools have filled the writer with anxiety. It is true private schools have sprung up in large numbers within recent years, and the people themselves have become educated enough to be able to take charge of the education of their own children; but in abolishing the zillah schools, Government should note that private schools are started mostly from mercenary motives, and keep up among themselves a sort of competition which has a very demoralising effect upon schoolboys.

Agricultural and Technical schools  
in Bengal.

21. The *Sanjivani*, of the 18th June, approves of the proposal of Government to establish Agricultural and Technical schools in Bengal, and adds that Sir Charles Elliott will recover much of the popularity which he has lost by attempting to abolish high education.

SANJIVANI,  
June 18th, 1892.

The Dacca College.

22. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 20th June, says that the transfer of Mr. Edwards to the Presidency College in place of Mr. Webb will tell seriously on the efficiency of the Dacca College. Last year Mr. Edwards was removed from the Principalship of the Dacca College for some time, and the effect of his removal was that the Dacca College did very badly at all the late University Arts Examinations.

Dacca Gazette,  
June 20th, 1892.The pay of Rai Radhika  
Prasanna Mukerji, Bahadur.

23. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th June, notices with regret that the question asked by Sir Roper Lethbridge in the House of Commons regarding the case of Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukerji Bahadur, the able Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, who is, after long years of meritorious service, drawing a pay of only Rs. 570 when, if properly treated, he would now have been drawing Rs. 750 if only he had been allowed the benefit of the rules regulating the pay and allowances of the graded officers of the Education Department, has failed to elicit any favourable reply from the Under-Secretary of State for India. The Rai Bahadur's is a very hard case, and Sir Alfred Croft therefore made a strong representation in his favour. Radhika Babu has got his grade, but he is permitted to draw neither the full pay nor the full amount of annual increments which are enjoyed by his European brethren in the same grade, for being a native officer he is allowed only two-thirds of the pay given to European officers of his grade. There are few officers in the Education Department who possess his ability and experience. He is, in fact, the Director's right-hand man, and has to write the annual report of the Education Department. But he must suffer, for it is now the policy of Government to make a distinction of Native and European in every branch of the administration.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 20th, 1892.

## (e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

24. A correspondent of the *Kasipurnivasi*, of the 27th May, draws the attention of the authorities of the Barisál Municipality to the oppressive conduct of the person who supplies firewood at the Barisál burning-ghat. People who have to go to the ghat for the purpose of burning the dead are put to the greatest inconvenience in consequence of the heartless conduct of this man.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
May 27th, 1892.

25. The same paper, of the 13th June, says that the site of the cholera ward in the female hospital at Barisál is very objectionable. Situated between two public roads, it is regarded as a nuisance by people using those roads. A morgue has been constructed on one side of the cholera ward, and the bodies of the patients who die of cholera are kept here. This has increased

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
June 13th, 1892.



the nuisance. On 2nd June last, the decomposed stomach of a cow was examined in front of the ward to the extreme inconvenience and annoyance of the people occupying the neighbouring houses.

CHARUVARTA,  
June 13th, 1892.

26. The *Charuvarta*, of the 13th June, says that the health of the town of Nasirabad in the Mymensingh district is now much worse than what it was only a few years ago. It is true the town now wears a more ornamental appearance, but want of good drains has made it a veritable hotbed of disease. Cholera, small-pox, malaria, diarrhoea, and rheumatism are making a havoc of its population. The difficulty to be met with in constructing a good drainage system for Nasirabad is the absence of any river or other channel near the town into which the sewage can escape. The excavation of a canal for this purpose south of the town was discussed some time ago by the Municipality and the District Board, but with no definite result. Considering the increase of population, and the increase in the number of houses and cattle in the town, *pukka* drains have become an absolute necessity for its health. It is hoped the municipal authorities will take up the matter in right earnest without further delay.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 14th, 1892.

The latrine-tax in the Burdwan Municipality.

27. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th June, says that the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor that the Commissioners of the Burdwan Municipality have been right in assessing gardens to the latrine-tax is no doubt legally correct. The object of imposing a latrine-tax is to have a sum of money sufficient to meet the expense of cleaning privies. But the law imposing the tax is so worded that the tax can be imposed in respect to any land whatever, no matter whether or not there be a privy upon it. Thus the framers of the law deserve every praise for intellectual acuteness!

BANKURA DARPAN,  
June 15th, 1892.

A latrine-tax in Bankura.

28. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th June, says that a latrine-tax is about to be imposed in Bankura. The tax will not be for the present levied in the European quarter of the town, because the Europeans will simply refuse to pay it. The first experiment in this respect will, therefore, be made on the poor.

HINDU RANJIKI,  
June 15th, 1892.

Filling up of tanks by the Boalia Municipality in the Rajshahi district.

29. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 15th June, says that the Boalia Municipality in the Rajshahi district is no doubt consulting the sanitation of the town by filling up foul tanks and widening lanes and streets. But the filling up of tanks has been causing distress by creating scarcity of water. If the Municipality follows its present policy of only filling up filthy tanks, but does not excavate new ones in their place, the town will suffer severe distress in the course of two or three years on account of scarcity of water.

SAMAY,  
June 17th, 1892.

The *Pioneer* on the elective principle among Hindus.

30. The *Samay*, of the 17th June, has the following:—

An article against the elective system appeared in a recent number of the *Janmabhumi*, a monthly periodical, which is issued from the *Bangavasi* office. The *Pioneer* newspaper says, on the strength of that article, that orthodox Hindus do not like the elective system.

But there are two other papers, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and the *Hindu Patriot*, which are also recognized as organs of Hindu orthodoxy, but which have been loudly crying for the extension of the elective principle. And is not the *Pioneer* aware of their existence? The *Bangavasi* and its supporters dislike the elective system, simply because they are unwilling to see Brahmans brought on the same footing as low caste men. But this equalisation of high and low, of which the *Bangavasi* complains, began, not with the introduction of the elective system, but with the introduction of Western learning in this country. Men of different castes now mix freely for the transaction of their respective business. And if this free mingling of castes which takes place from motives of self-interest is not objectionable, why should it be objectionable when brought on by the requirements of the elective system? Again, if the *Pioneer* wants to see the *Bangavasi's* notions and ideas given full effect to in practice, he must agree to Englishmen leaving this country altogether. For, according to the *Bangavasi*, the English are a low people, whose very touch is contamination to the Hindu, and who should not therefore exercise sovereignty over the Hindus who are a superior people.



31. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 19th June, points out the impropriety of spending municipal money on the improvement of the Calcutta kintals alone. If municipal money is spent on that object, it should also be spent on the improvement of the quarters of Calcutta which are inhabited by poor Hindus and Mussulmans.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 19th, 1892.

32. The same paper says that, as might have been expected, the newly issued *Shahabad Gazette*, which is a monthly started by the District Board of Shahabad, is full of the praise of the Board and of Mr. Skrine, the Magistrate. The writer will not, however, criticise the paper until it has lived out one year, for publications like it seldom survive that term.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

33. The *Bangavasi*, of the 18th June, says that, on the 30th May last, a collision took place between two railway trains at the Dinajpur station on the Northern Bengal State Railway. A correspondent has given particulars of the accident which, however, must not be taken without verification. In such cases, rumour generally exaggerates, and the correspondent's letter is published only with a view of informing the authorities of the accident and enabling them to ascertain the real facts. The substance of the correspondent's letter is as follows:—

BANGAVASI,  
June 18th, 1892.

The accident occurred at midnight on the 30th May last, between a train just arrived from Parbatipur, and an incoming train from Manihari. In consequence of the collision, the Parbatipur train ran off with great velocity towards Parbatipur, but was stopped by people who followed it. Immediately after the occurrence, the station staff closed the windows of the carriages, and, lantern in hand, searched for the dead and the wounded. The dead were at once removed to a goods carriage which was immediately sent off in a westerly direction. And so the Magistrate coming to investigate the matter a short time after did not find any dead bodies. It is said that about 25 men, women, and children were killed, and a large number were severely wounded, though, according to the official account, not a single life was lost. But according to other reports, about 40 or 42 passengers were killed. Two or three severely wounded men are said to have been sent with the dead even before they were actually lifeless. Some five or six carriages of the Manihari train were completely shattered.

(h)—*General.*

34. The *Pratihar*, of the 17th June, is sorry that, with a view of curtailing expenditure, the Government is going to abolish the Lalbagh subdivision of the Murshidabad district, in utter disregard of the inconvenience that will be caused to the local public by the measure in question.

PRATIKAR,  
June 17th, 1892.

35. The same paper complains that, while no natives will be taken in as higher and lower grade apprentices in the Bengal Secretariat unless they shall have passed the B. A. and F. A. Examination, respectively, this qualification will not be insisted upon in the case of the Eurasians.

PRATIKAR.

36. The *Bangavasi*, of the 18th June, has the following:—For the purpose of making pilgrimages, the railway offers the speediest and most comfortable method of travelling. But it is at the same time a source of serious mischief. Nothing, for instance, brings men of different castes and creeds so much together as a railway journey. Hindu pilgrims in past times had no occasion to come in contact with, or travel in the company of, strangers and people following other religions. The Hindu pilgrim of the present day has very little hope of enjoying the pleasure and the happiness which pilgrimages, made with perfect freedom and unhampered by rule and restriction, in the company of one's own people, always gave to the Hindu pilgrim in the past. In making a railway journey, the Hindu pilgrim of the present day has to inhale every moment the noxious and demoralising breath of numbers of men, aliens in religion, and the poison penetrates

BANGAVASI,  
June 18th, 1892.



his bone and marrow through every one of the countless pores in his body. How long can he enjoy his spiritual purity and serenity in circumstances like these? His joy and his buoyancy are liable to be disturbed at every step, and it is, therefore, no wonder that his mind and body alike should become a prey to disease, although the fervent desire to visit the holy places and see the gods, which fills and animates him, counteracts in some measure the contaminating influences of unfit and uncongenial company. It is owing to the railway that the Hindu pilgrim has to come in contact with aliens in religion, both on his way to the sacred places and during his stay in those places themselves. The case is the same with the steamer, and yet it is the rail and the steamer which are now principally used by the Hindu for making pilgrimages.

It is therefore clear that the causes which now produce diseases of mind and body did not formerly exist in this country, and places of pilgrimage therefore were comparatively free from disease. It cannot of course be said that epidemics never broke out in such places. Occasional outbreaks there were, but people in past times did not make so much fuss and noise over them as they do now.

Under the Hindu kings, an outbreak of disease in any sacred place of the Hindus made it obligatory on the sovereign to adopt prompt and energetic remedial measures. For that was a duty imposed on him by the *sastras*. And it is certain that he could not, even if remedial or preventive measures proved ineffectual, chase out the pilgrims from any such place. In such cases, human effort had to confess itself vanquished, and sovereign and subject quietly abided by the decree of Fate. Hindu rulers considered it a great sin to wound the feelings of pilgrims by driving them away from any sacred place. History is silent as to how the Mussulman rulers of the country conducted themselves on the occasion of such outbreaks in the holy places of the Hindus, and as to whether they were as attentive as the British Government to the requirements of sanitation in those places.

The recent Hurdwar affair furnishes abundant evidence that an outbreak of cholera in any sacred place causes the greatest uneasiness and alarm to the British Government by reason of the probability that such visitations may lead to a fearful loss of population. It was not at Hurdwar, however, that the authorities felt their first anxiety in connection with an outbreak of cholera in a sacred place. That cholera may break out wherever and whenever there is a vast gathering of pilgrims, as, for instance, on the occasion of religious fairs, has been the belief of the British Government at all times during the British rule. But it is undoubtedly at Hurdwar that Government has for the first time adopted the plan of turning out a whole body of pilgrims from a sacred place. Cholera, however, is not much dreaded by the pious Hindu—witness his pilgrimages to Puri, where the disease frequently breaks out and carries off enormous numbers.

Of course, the British rulers can never be expected to be guided by the beliefs and convictions which influence the pious fatalistic Hindu. And it is, therefore, no wonder that the dread of cholera completely upsets the mind of the British Government, and leads it to propose various measures for the sanitation of this country. These proposals, however, have not yet been carried out, though there can be no doubt that they ought to be. It is true that, fatalist as he is, nothing will stand in the way of the Hindu who has set his heart upon making a pilgrimage, but if Government is really convinced that the sacred places of the Hindus have become unhealthy, it is clearly its duty to adopt prompt measures for their sanitation.

There should not be a moment's delay in removing what is believed to be the principal cause of the unhealthiness of these places. But if, instead of doing that, Government only directs the expulsion of pilgrims from such places on the actual outbreak of an epidemic, it will have only itself to thank for the bad name it will earn by so doing. Government has succeeded in a large measure in ascertaining the causes which have produced the unhealthiness of Puri, but no adequate efforts are being made to remove them. This inaction on the part of Government will not, however, have any unsettling effect on the faith of the Hindu pilgrim, though, after what has just occurred at Hurdwar, it may be regarded by him with some fear. And it is to be hoped that the concourse of pilgrims at Puri on the occasion of the ensuing Car festival will be as large as



in past years, and that the scenes just witnessed at Hurdwar will not be re-enacted at Puri.

The writer then refers to the urgent need of adopting sanitary measures in Puri, as well as in the *serais* resorted to by the pilgrims on their way to that town, and notices with approbation the proposals made with that object in a recent number of the *Medical Reporter*. Of course, to give effect to these proposals, Government will require money. But in India nothing that has been considered necessary has ever been left undone for want of money. Has want of money ever stood in the way of the prosecution of frontier works? And what is sanitation of Puri, if not an insignificant business compared with those gigantic undertakings? It is surely the bad luck of the Indians that, with these facts before them, they find the British Government laying itself open to the charge of neglect of duty which the writer in the *Medical Reporter* has thought fit to bring against it in connection with the sanitation of Puri.

37. A correspondent of the *Dacca Gazette*, of the 20th June, says that either immediately before or immediately after the eviction of Jahnavi Chaudhurani's raiyats by Mr. Phillips from Gayaragacha, the Deputy Magistrate of Tangail issued a notice calling upon all zamindars of Santosh to deposit with Government all the arms in their possession and to return their licenses for the same. But before depriving the zamindars of their privilege of using arms, Government ought to have redressed the wrongs they have suffered at the hands of Mr. Phillips. Whatever steps, lawful or unlawful, the zamindars may take to defend their rights, they are by no means disloyal subjects of Her Majesty. But if the wrongs suffered by them at the hands of Mr. Phillips are not redressed, their loyalty to the Government will not certainly increase. The correspondent is at a loss to understand why Jahnavi Chaudhurani has not yet sought redress of her wrongs from Government.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
June 20th, 1892.

38. The *Gramvasi*, of the 20th June, says that the work of registration in the sub-registry office at Ulubaria has so much increased that one sub-registrar is unable to cope with it. It is therefore desirable that a separate sub-registry office should be established within the jurisdiction of the Bagnan thana. An important thana like that at Bagnan ought to have a sub-registry office.

GRAMVASI,  
June 20th, 1892.

39. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th June, has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 20th, 1892.

Government admits that road cess money ought to be spent in the construction of roads and other works of public utility. But, as a matter of fact, road cess money is being spent in famine relief. Many are blaming Government for this, and saying that though the tax, now known as the income-tax, which was imposed in Lord Lytton's time for the purpose of meeting the cost of famine relief, continues to be levied, Government does not spend its proceeds for that purpose, but applies them to other purposes, like Lord Lytton himself who spent them in making war upon Afghanistan; and that by spending road cess money in famine relief it is doing a very reprehensible thing and laying itself open to the charge of breach of faith.

Now, we believe it is impossible for Government to always keep its promise. For many reasons Government has often to make promises which, for various reasons, it afterwards finds it necessary to break. The pledge was given by Lord Cornwallis that there would be no interference at any time with the Permanent Settlement, but Government has been obliged to break that pledge by imposing the road cess. And has no blow been struck and is no blow being struck at the promises made in the Queen's name to the people of this country after the Sepoy Mutiny? If, therefore, at the time of imposing the road cess, the pledge was given by Government that its proceeds would be applied to the execution of no work other than roads, ghats, &c., well may Government break that pledge too. When, in many other matters, Government has found it necessary to break its promise, why should it be above the necessity of breaking its promise in the matter of the road cess too? But, in the first place, we are told by the Bengal Government that road cess money is spent in road work and similar other works. Now, we cannot admit that



the whole of the road cess money is spent for the purpose for which that cess is levied. If it had been so, the water scarcity in Bengal would have been long since removed. And there can be no doubt that the removal of the water scarcity is one of the objects for which road cess money can be legitimately spent. Again, an enquiry into the manner in which the District Boards spend their funds will show that the proceeds of the road cess are not wholly spent in the construction of such works of public utility as can be properly and legitimately constructed with that money. The Magistrate is the supreme ruler of the District Board, and everything is done according to his will and pleasure, and the District Engineer is only his most obedient pupil. There should be little room for complaint if the whole of the road cess money were spent in the prosecution of only such works as were likely to benefit those poor people who pay the cess.

In the second place, we are told by the Bengal Government that it is only just and proper that the District Boards have been called upon to prosecute famine relief works with the funds at their disposal. Now, it is well known that the works constructed in famine times are not always such as may benefit the public in general. In the construction of such works very little attention is paid to their necessity or usefulness, and everybody knows that they are not constructed with such care as would be bestowed upon them, if they were left to be done by the Public Works Department. There is considerable waste of money on such occasions, and it is no wonder that this should be the case, considering that the work is done by men who do not know what they are about.

In the third place, we are told by the Bengal Government that public works undertaken in famine times prove of great benefit to people suffering from scarcity, and that it is works like these on which road cess money at the disposal of the District Boards ought to be spent. Now, we too admit that relief ought to be given to sufferers from scarcity by constructing public works, but at the time of imposing the road cess there was no talk of spending the proceeds of the cess on famine relief. What was said is that the money would be spent on road work alone. Now, it is a clear case of misapplication of the proceeds of the cess if those proceeds are not spent for the purpose for which the cess was avowedly imposed. The famine-tax imposed by Lord Lytton, and now known as the income-tax, ought to be spent for purposes of famine relief. The application of road cess money to famine relief is not strictly just or proper, though it may in some measure appear reasonable. All that can be reasonably expected or claimed in this connection is that in the construction of public works made with road cess money, employment should be given to people suffering from scarcity. How can it be just or proper to spend road cess money on works which are evidently intended for famine relief? Ram gets money from Shyam for the avowed purpose of celebrating his marriage. Would Ram be spending that money for that purpose, if, instead of spending it on his wedding, he spent it on his father's *shradh*? It is true that both ceremonies possess certain features in common: feasts are given to Brahmins and alms are given to beggars at a *shradh* as well as at a wedding. But would it, therefore, be right to contend that a wedding and a *shradh* are one and the same thing? The object for which the road cess is levied from the people is the construction, in a satisfactory manner, of roads and other works of public utility. Would it not, therefore, be improper to use the proceeds of the cess in giving employment to a number of men on public works hastily and badly executed during a famine? Can Government deny that public works made for purposes of famine relief are not executed as satisfactorily as public works made at other times, and that work turned out by bad workmen cannot but be bad? The construction of public works of that kind may produce religious merit, and may even serve the purpose of keeping alive a starving people during a famine; but it is clear that the object for which road cess is levied will never be fully attained by constructing such works.

In the fourth place, the Bengal Government tells us that road work is also comprised in the public works generally undertaken during a famine, though the quantity of earthwork done on such occasions is slightly in excess of what is done in other years, for it is only earthwork that famine-stricken people can do. It is well known that much of the earthwork done during a



famine is such as cannot be subsequently utilised in any way, and might as well not have been undertaken at all. Government too, therefore, admits that the application of road-cess money to the prosecution of public works during a famine is not a strictly just or proper proceeding.

In the fifth place, we are told, that it is not the case that road work and other public works are neglected in places where there is no scarcity. Now, in places where there is no scarcity, the amount of work done in connection with roads, &c., is very small, nearly the whole allotment of road cess money being spent in the prosecution of public works for famine relief purposes in those localities in which there is suffering and distress. This constitutes almost a violation of the pledges given at the time of imposition of the road cess.

Government next proceeds to argue that even if road cess money is spent at a time of distress in the construction of public works for relief purposes, such expenditure is not objectionable, for road work is one of the classes of public works which are undertaken on such occasions. Although such expenditure may not be wholly unjustifiable, it is still open to great objection.

In the seventh place, Government points out that the *annasatras* are not maintained with road cess money, but with money granted by Government from the general revenues. This is as it should be.

We are, in the next place, told by Government that the best famine policy is, that the duty of constructing public works for relief purposes should be at the outset undertaken by the District Board in whose jurisdiction famine makes its appearance. This is far from just. For, obviously, the Board can only undertake such works with the road cess fund. That fund, again, is not sufficiently large to enable it to do justice to such works. Government has often on such occasions to grant loans to the Boards to enable them to discharge this part of their duty. Such loans have been granted by Government to certain Boards in Bihār during the present scarcity. Now, as the Boards have to repay these loans, they must reduce the allotment on the road work of the district to find the required sum of money. The roads and other works made during famine do not prove of much service to them in this connection, and road work in the district, therefore, necessarily suffers, while the Boards get more and more encumbered with debt. This can never be just and proper. Another point deserves consideration, namely, that those for whose benefit road cess money is thus spent on famine relief works are the people who have to pay the road cess. Government does not remit the portion of the cess for which they are liable. It is really difficult to understand the policy which makes the party for whose benefit road cess money is spent for relief purposes bear the burden of the road cess. If, in connection with the road cess demand, Government were found to remit the amount due from the raiyat and to apply the road cess fund to relief purposes, there can be no doubt that the arrangement would have much to recommend it.

As regards the policy laid down by Government that the Local Government should make grants of money only when the District Boards are found unable to prosecute famine relief works with the funds at their disposal, it may be asked—when should the Boards be properly considered unable to do that work? Considering that Government is ever willing to grant loans to the Boards, those bodies will never lack funds for carrying out relief measures. Again, the Boards will not trouble themselves much with thoughts about their future solvency, for the least unwillingness on their part to incur expenditure in connection with famine relief will bring upon them the censure of Government. It is, therefore, impossible to say when, if ever, the Boards will be found unable to cope with famine with their existing resources, supplemented by the resources which Government may place at their disposal in the shape of loans, &c. In reference to the statement that the Government of India will come forward with help when the Local Government has exhausted its resources and is found unable to carry out relief measures, it should be observed that the finances of the Local Government are far from satisfactory. The enormous expenditure incurred by the Supreme Government in the maintenance of its army, and in connection with frontier works and wars has compelled it to impose strict limits upon the expenditure which may be made by the Local Governments. Out of the 20 crores of revenue raised in Bengal, 11 crores are appropriated for Imperial purposes; and it is, therefore, no wonder that the



Bengal Government should be always at a loss to find money for necessary works. Now, this financial embarrassment in a manner makes it necessary for the Local Government to impose unduly heavy burdens upon the District Boards.

We shall not, therefore, blame anybody but our own bad luck for this state of things. The Government of Bengal is not to blame. It has been in a manner forced to place the burden of relief expenditure on the shoulders of the District Boards. For, "What sin is there that a hungry man may not commit? The weak are ever unkind." Hungry as the Bengal Government now is, it will not do for it to be particularly scrupulous about the justice of its course. We do not, therefore, blame that Government. We know that road cess money must be applied to famine relief purposes, and because we know this we do not care to ask either the Government or the District Board to find the whole cost of removing the water scarcity which now afflicts the country.

We are not here discussing the famine relief policy of the Bengal Government, or protesting against the application of road cess money for the purpose of famine relief. What we object to is that, without making any reference to the real point at issue, or to the true state of matters, the Bengal Government should be indulging in undue advocacy of its present famine policy. That Government knows as well as ourselves that the proceeds of the Famine Tax imposed by Lord Lytton, and now known as the Income Tax, are being applied to purposes other than those of famine relief. It at least behoved that Government to admit that famine relief ought to be the first charge on those proceeds.

It is probable that the exigencies of politics have closed the mouth of the Bengal Government, that it has no right to protest in any way against any act of the Government of India, and that it has not therefore been able to express its opinion on the real point at issue. We do not blame it for this; for the relation of master and servant is one which even the Bengal Government must recognise. Nevertheless that Government should have at least admitted that the application of road cess money to famine relief works is not strictly or fully justifiable. What has grieved us, and in some measure even offended us, is that instead of making that admission it is, on the contrary, attempting to stop the mouths of the opponents of its famine policy. We exceedingly like plain speaking, and are ever anxious to hear Government speak out its mind. It therefore extremely pains us to see Government following so often a wrong and tortuous course.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

BANGAVASI,  
June 17th 1892

The Village Chaukidari Act Amendment Bill.

40. The *Bangavasi*, of the 18th June, has the following on the Village Chaukidari Act Amendment Bill:—

With the exception of the assessment and collection of the chaukidari tax, the panchayet will have no other responsible work to do; and yet Government will not abolish the panchayet system. Considering that people do not even now, when the panchayets have real responsible work placed in their hands, easily consent to be nominated as panchayets, will they, when the Bill has been passed, consent to be appointed as panchayets simply to do the work of harassing and worrying their fellow-villagers by assessing the chaukidari tax upon them, and collecting it from them? Government has thrown to the people the bait or sop of Self-Government by giving them the power of electing their panchayets; but village people do not even know what Self-Government is, and care little about the elective system, and they will therefore never have much sympathy with the fuss of a panchayet election. Panchayets will therefore continue, as now, to be selected from among objectionable people in the villages and forced to act as panchayets. Again, panchayets will have fewer duties to perform; but they will, nevertheless, go on oppressing the people as at present.

The Magistrate will have the absolute power of determining the number of chaukidars to be employed in a village, having regard only to the number of



houses in it; but nowhere in the Bill is he expressly enjoined to take into account the area of the village or the condition of its people. The number of chaukidars is determined even now in this way; but the system is not unattended by oppression. Take the case of a village containing only thirty houses owned by very poor people, whose only resource is the wages they earn as day labourers. Poor as they are, they must maintain a chaukidar at Rs. 5 per month; and though earning only two to three annas a day, every one among them must find an anna or two to pay his chaukidari tax per month. And then the tax is not collected monthly, but in quarterly instalments, which is a source of additional hardship and embarrassment to the poor people, some of whom have often to part with their ragged clothing and wretched bedding, in order to be discharged from their obligation to pay instalments of the chaukidari tax. This is not an exaggerated statement of the case. Anyone not inclined to believe the writer may have from him plenty of cases to remove his doubt. Many a time the writer himself has had to pay the tax for many poor defaulters. One cold morning in the month of January, as the writer was sitting in his room, an old man came near him shivering with cold and fell to the ground. The cold had nearly taken away from him his speech, and on being asked what the matter with him was, replied that, as he had not been able to pay the chaukidari tax, the panchayet had the day before seized and sold the only ragged quilt he had to protect himself from the cold, and that he had to spend the whole of the preceding night without the smallest bit of clothing on his back. He then begged the writer to save his life. The writer could multiply instances of this nature. The hardship of the tax is felt, not in isolated villages in the province, or here and there; but, alas! in too many villages. It would be best, therefore, to determine the number of chaukidars to be employed in a village not by the number of houses contained in it, but by its area and the condition of its residents.

The salary of a chaukidar under the proposed law will be Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 per month. But considering the nature of the duties that are proposed to be imposed on the chaukidars, they will have little time left to eke out their poor income by private work, and they will consequently have to be paid at the maximum rate, or men will not be easily available for employment as chaukidars. And it seems from what has often taken place before that it is the Government's inclination to employ chaukidars at the highest rate of pay. Only the other day, the Magistrate of Dacca proposed increasing the salaries of chaukidars in his district to Rs. 6 per month without paying the least regard to the condition of the tax-payers. The writer will approve of the employment of chaukidars at the highest rate of pay provided in the law, if they are made really useful public servants. But why even then should poor villagers be made to bear the whole burden of their pay? Nothing can be indeed more gratifying than for the subject to help the Government in the administration of the country, but when the subject is unable to give it such help, it ought not certainly to impose the cost of the administration upon his shoulders in the shape of the chaukidari tax. Under the proposed chaukidari law the chaukidar will be a servant of Government, and will do the work of Government, but must for all that be paid by the poor subject. This is a policy which is certainly unworthy of the rich and powerful English Government. Chaukidars maintained at the cost of the subjects will be not their servants, but their oppressors, and will thereby do much to shake the stability of the English Government in India. And this may be good politics, but it is certainly not good morality.

41. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 19th June, is glad to learn that the Indian Officers Bill, which has been passed by the House of Lords, will not be made law, many members of the House of Commons, both Conservative and Liberal, being opposed to the measure. The law will not benefit India in any way.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 19th, 1892.

42. The same paper of the 23rd June refers to the appointment of Mr. Lambert to the Bengal Council in the place of Sir Alfred Croft, and says that by this appointment Public Instruction and the Police are made to appear as occupying the same category. Are both engines for the government (grinding down) of the people?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 23rd, 1892.



## IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
June 13th, 1892.

43. The *Hindi Bangavasi*, of the 13th June, says that cholera is still raging as violently as before in Cashmere, but prices of food grains remain stationary.

PRAKRITI,  
June 18th, 1892.

44. The *Prakriti*, of the 18th June, says that there are a large number of families in Tippera who have been, for generations, in the enjoyment of *Brahmottar* lands. Many of them do not possess the deeds of gift under which they have been enjoying these lands; and if a cadastral survey takes place in Tippera, these people will be unable to satisfy the survey officers that their lands are *Brahmottar* and the survey officers will, therefore, record their lands as *khas*. And then litigation will be inevitable. The people of Tippera are poor, very few among them possessing brick-built houses. They live in huts, and the fires which frequently break out in Tippera destroy these huts again and again and the documents that are kept in these huts have been, consequently, in a large number of cases, destroyed. White-ants have also made great havoc among them. These are the reasons why many people, whose ancestors obtained *Brahmottar* lands from the State will be unable to produce the deeds conferring these lands. Again, this litigation will destroy the good understanding which now exists between the Maharaja and his subjects. The statement made in certain quarters that the people's income from their taluks in Tippera is largely in excess of the rent which they pay to the Maharaja, is without foundation. An inhabitant of Tippera, writing on the subject of a cadastral survey, then observes as follows:—

The survey will ruin the people without in the least benefiting the Maharaja. Babu Umakanta Das has not done well by ordering the survey. Umakanta Babu contemplates appointing a near relation of his to take charge of the survey. If this is done, the chances of injustice from the survey will increase. It is hoped that Government will consider the matter carefully before appointing the chief amin to superintend the survey in Tippera.

## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
June 13th, 1892.

45. The *Hindi Bangavasi*, of the 13th June, says that Government must believe in the story of distress in the Sonthal Parganas communicated to the *Statesman* newspaper by the Christian Missionary, Mr. Haegert. It is now the duty of Government to send prompt relief to the famine-stricken people.

HINDI BANGAVASI.

Distress in the Monghyr district.

46. The same paper has learnt from a correspondent that great distress prevails in Jamui Sonop in the Monghyr district.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
May 27th, 1892.

47. The *Kasipur Nivasi*, of the 27th May, is sorry to note that no one in the district of Barisál has, up to this time, been honoured by Government with a title. The following persons are, in the opinion of the writer, deserving of Government honour:—

1. Babu Bihari Lal Roy Choudhuri, zamindar, proprietor of the Raj Chandra College.
2. Babu Asvini Kumar Dutt, M.A., B.L., proprietor of the Braja Mohan College.
3. Babu Dwarka Nath Dutt, Vakil, Judge's Court, and Chairman of the Barisál Municipality.
4. Babu Abhayananda Das, Senior Government Pleader.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 14th, 1892.

48. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 14th June, complains of the prevalence of water scarcity in the country, and refers with approbation to the *Dainik* newspaper's proposal for the establishment of a water-supply fund. There will be no difficulty in establishing such a fund, if the people of the country contribute their quota for the purpose. It is hoped that the editors of



all native papers will help the editor of the *Dainik* in giving practical effect to his proposal.

49. The same paper does not think that the adoption of a gold currency in India will prove advantageous to the country. It is hardly proper to have a gold currency in a country where cowrie-shells are still used to do duty for coin. Again, the adoption of a gold currency will not affect the value of silver in relation to gold, and the arrangement will benefit only those who will carry on business only in gold. But even they will have to incur heavy loss whenever they will require to convert their silver into gold. The writer is unable to see why a gold currency has been proposed. Before the proposed arrangement is adopted, its *pros* and *cons* should be fully considered.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 14th, 1892.

50. The same paper has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

The Judge of Burdwan and the Rádhánagar Sankirtan party.

A few days ago, a Sankirtan party from Rádhánagar, in the district of Burdwan, was going to the bank of the river Banká along a route passing before the District Judge's house. On nearing that house the party stopped singing. Thereupon, the Judge, who was in the house, sent out his chaprasi to tell the party that they need not stop singing. Whereupon the party blessed the Judge and went on chanting all the way. This was a small incident, but it showed how magnanimous is the Judge's heart. The District Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, on the other hand, sent his constable to arrest the Rádhánagar Sankirtan party, and even prosecuted some of them.

51. The *Bankura Darpan*, of the 15th June, has the following in connection with the Lieutenant-Governor's coming visit to Bankura:—

BANKURA DARPAN,  
June 15th, 1892.

The Lieutenant-Governor's coming visit to Bankura.

The Lieutenant-Governor is about to pay a visit to Bankura, and the Municipality and the District Board are busy making preparations for His Honour's reception. Roads are being repaired and arrangements are being made for lighting the town during the Lieutenant-Governor's stay in it. Triumphal arches will be constructed and *nahabat* music will be kept up day and night. The writer hopes that the people of Bankura will give a fitting reception to the ruler of the country, and will at the same time try to make their wants and wishes known to him. As the Lieutenant-Governor will stay in the town only for two days, and will be unable to see all things with his own eyes, it should be the duty of the Magistrate, the Municipality, and the District Board to make the wants of the public known to him. In their addresses to His Honour, the Municipality and the District Board should mention the following matters:—

1. Great inconvenience is felt by the people of Bankura in consequence of the want of a water or a railway communication. A railway line from Tarakeswar to Purulia *via* Bankura will prove of great commercial advantage to the district.
2. The want of a drainage canal is badly felt by the agricultural population of the district. They are ready to pay a water-rate at the rate of 8 annas per bigha, and the re-excavation of the *Subhankar's Dánrá* will prove of great advantage to them. The work will be a paying concern for Government.
3. The people of the district will be greatly benefited by the construction of a branch railway or a steam tramway line from the town of Bankura to the Raghunathpur Station.
4. Prevalence of scarcity and of theft and dacoity in the southern part of the district.
5. Since 1863 (?) Bankura was one of the centres for the Entrance Examination, and the abolition of that centre this year has been a source of great inconvenience to boys and their guardians in the district. Bankura is a backward district, and the Bankura centre should be re-established.
6. Amíns for survey purposes are frequently needed here, and a survey school should be therefore established in Bankura.
7. It is desirable that F.A. classes should be opened in the local school; the increased expenditure being met by the Government, the Municipality and the District Board.



8. There is not a single Government or municipal tank in the town. Much good will, therefore, be done by the excavation of wells and a *bund*.

9. Water scarcity in the district may be removed by the re-excavation of the large *bunds*, which are numerous in the district.

52. The *Sahachar*, of the 15th June, writes as follows:—

SAHACHAR,  
June 15th, 1892.

The Currency question.

The Government of India ought to carefully consider the Hon'ble Mr. Mackay's proposals on the subject of currency reform. Sir Alexander Miller holds the same views as Mr. Mackay on this question. Government, however, is not to blame in the matter. It repeatedly drew the attention of the Home Government to the heavy loss which India is sustaining on account of an unfavourable exchange. But their fear of the English capitalists prevented the Ministry from taking any remedial measures. They referred India to America. This was acting like the man who having sufficient food in his own house, sent away his hungry children to beg their dinner of a neighbour. The Simla Currency Association have asked Parliament to give the Government of India freedom of action in monetary matters. Since 1873, Government has lost 80 crores of rupees by exchange—a loss, which it would not have incurred, if the Government of England had interfered in the matter. What was done by the Dutch in Java can be done here in India. The Dutch wanted to have a gold currency in the island. So they began to levy a duty on the coinage of silver and at the same time partially used gold coins. In this way, they established a gold currency, without at the same time, affecting the price of the silver dollar. And let the same thing be done here. Let gold *mohurs* or sovereigns be at once introduced into this country. If it be asked, where is the necessary gold to come from?—the answer will be, where did it come from in the days of the Moghul *Badshas*? The gold, which is now converted into ornaments, will, after the introduction of a gold currency, find its way into the Mint.

SAHACHAR.

53. The same paper says that, with the setting in of the rains, water scarcity has disappeared from the country. But if Government does not take timely measures, the

Water scarcity.

scarcity will again occur next summer. Government should, therefore, encourage the efforts, which are now being made on all sides, to excavate tanks in the country. Government can materially advance this matter by conferring titles on those who shall excavate tanks or take other measures for the supply of drinking water.

SAHACHAR.

54. The same paper is sorry to report the death of Mr. Worsley. The deceased gentleman was a civilian of 25 years' standing. He was for 9 years Magistrate of Muzaf-

The late Mr. Worsley.

farpur, and during that period he, along with Messrs. Mosley, Kirkwood and others, earned the reputation of being a hot-headed oppressive Magistrate. But with advancing years, he cooled down, and in his capacity of Divisional Commissioner, he tried to earn the love and respect of the people. He has done nothing which will commemorate his name in this country. But then he was an official of Government, and latterly tried to be at peace with the people. It is for this reason that the writer deploras his untimely death.

BHARAT MITRA,  
June 16th, 1892.

55. The *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 16th June, takes objection to the rules recently made by the Port Commissioners for the bathing ghats in Calcutta, on the following

The Calcutta bathing ghat rules.

grounds:—

(1) The rules prohibit anybody rubbing his body with oil on the river bank. This will inconvenience a large body of bathers.

(2) The rule about stationing male constables at the female bathing-ghats is very objectionable.

The Port Commissioners ought to prohibit *ganja* smoking on the river bank.

BANGANIVASI  
June 17th, 1892.

56. The *Banganivasi*, of the 17th June, says that the Conference which will be held at Belvedere early in July will con-

The water-supply question.

sider not only the question of water-supply and drainage in the municipalities, but also the question of water-supply in the villages; and if the result of the Conference be the removal of the sufferings of the mufassal people from scarcity of water, Sir Charles Elliott will have earned a name in Bengal that will never die. Sir Charles's energy



makes us confident that he will not rest until he has discovered some means of alleviating the water distress prevailing in the mufassal. It is the first duty of a ruler to protect his subjects, and therefore to remove all causes which make his subjects die untimely deaths in large numbers. But the question is, how is the evil to be removed? The question of water-supply in municipalities is not a very difficult one to deal with. Government has given its promise to advance money to the municipalities for local improvements; and the municipalities in Bengal may borrow money from it for getting supplies of good drinking water within their respective jurisdictions. That there are municipalities which have not yet taken advantage of this promise of Government to supply themselves with pure drinking water is because they fear lest with their small and inelastic incomes, and their many commissions to execute therewith, they should fail to pay interest on the Government's money. And Government ought to solve the difficulty these municipalities are under by at once resolving not to take interest for the money it may advance to them.

But the evil cannot be so easily removed within rural or non-municipal areas. The District and Local Boards have very small incomes, very accurately apportioned to various heads of expenditure, and so they have not a single cowrie with which to undertake any work outside of the fixed routine. These Boards have also no means of increasing their income. Under these circumstances, money must be granted to them from the Provincial Exchequer for carrying out any scheme that may be devised for supplying rural Bengal with good drinking water. It is true Government's pecuniary condition is far from satisfactory, but it does not nevertheless hesitate to spend money unnecessarily; and it should therefore find money for the legitimate and reasonable purpose of supplying its subjects with good drinking-water.

The far-sighted *Dainik* newspaper thinks that Government will on no account consent to incur any expenditure from its own treasury for solving the water-supply difficulty; and it has therefore very wisely suggested the creation of a Water-supply Fund, the chief contributions to which must come from the zamindars. That contributions to this Fund in preference to the Dufferin and similar Funds will do immensely more good to the country can hardly be denied; but zamindars should not be compelled to contribute to this Fund, but their voluntary contributions should be thankfully accepted. Government, however, must take the initiative if the scheme is to prove a success.

The Currency question.

57. The *Education Gazette*, of the 17th June, writes as follows :—

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
June 17th, 1892.

The Currency Association which recently met at Simla declared itself in favour of bi-metallism and proposed the adoption of a gold currency in India as an alternative. But as a gold currency is unsuitable in a poor country like India, the Association should direct its efforts towards converting the people of England to bi-metallism. If, however, England refuses to adopt a bi-metallic currency, and it is considered advisable to have a gold currency here, the latter should, like the currency in England, consist of pounds, shillings, and pence. If this is done, much of the exchange difficulty may disappear.

58. The same paper says that the late Mr. Worsley was loved by natives for his kindness and sympathetic disposition.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

The late Mr. Worsley.

There can be no doubt that his death has grieved everybody.

59. The *Sansodhini*, of the 17th June, says that the virulence of the small-pox epidemics in Bengal during the last few years, ought to draw the special attention of the authorities to the question of selecting proper

SANSODHINI,  
June 17th, 1892.

Vaccination and inoculation in India.

preventive measures. There was a small-pox epidemic in Calcutta in 1890, in Chittagong in 1891, and in Dacca during the current year. The people of the country never heard of such virulent and frequent small-pox epidemics when the inoculative system was in vogue. In the epidemics mentioned above, large numbers of vaccinated people, and even of people who had re-vaccinated themselves during the year of the epidemic, fell victims to the disease, and during the Chittagong epidemic many people got themselves secretly inoculated in order to be the better guarded against the disease. These facts have raised grave doubts in the minds of the people about the efficacy of the vaccination system in this country. It is advisable, therefore, that a Commission should be appointed



to discover the best preventive against the disease in this country, as contradistinguished from other countries where vaccination may be the best and most suitable system. The writer would advise Government to take the answers of eminent physicians to the following questions:—

- (1) Whether it is true that small-pox cannot appear in a virulent type in cold countries.
- (2) Whether vaccination, which may be a sure preventive against the disease in cold countries is not too mild a preventive for a hot country like India.
- (3) Whether or not inoculation is the surest preventive in hot countries.
- (4) Whether the inoculation process cannot be so improved as to make it more harmless than it is at present.
- (5) Whether it is not possible to improve the vaccination system so as to make it more effective in India.
- (6) Whether, besides the human and vaccine lymphs, any other lymph can be used in this country.

The writer draws particular attention to questions 1 and 2. It is very probable that the vaccination system, though good for the cold countries of Europe, is not at all suited to India, and it is its introduction into this country which is responsible for the frequent outbreaks of the epidemic during recent years. The subject ought to be thoroughly studied by eminent native and European physicians.

SANJIVANI,  
June 18th, 1892.

60. The *Sanjivani*, of the 18th June, has the following remarks about the *Hindoo Patriot* newspaper:—

The *Hindoo Patriot* newspaper.

The *Hindoo Patriot*, since its transformation into a daily, has become a little too loyal to Government. Nor is the reason for this change in its tone far to seek, seeing that Government subscribes for 150 copies of it. In the exuberance of its loyalty it called the native press disloyal the other day. But however loyal the *Hindoo Patriot* may consider itself, the Anglo-Indian Press is still far from considering it as such. The other day it published a letter of Mr. Caine's on the excise policy of the Government of the North-Western Provinces, but it did not publish Sir Auckland Colvin's reply to that letter. The *Pioneer* noticed this omission, and remarked that the editor of the *Patriot* must have purposely suppressed the reply, thereby showing that it had yet to prove that it did not belong to the lowest class of native papers. It is therefore time that the *Hindoo Patriot* chose a clear line of policy. It should either strictly follow the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer*, or pursue a strictly independent policy. It will not do for it to follow any half-hearted ambiguous policy.

The writer has learnt from an authentic source that Mr. Risley has supplied the editor of the *Hindoo Patriot* with a number of recommendations to District Judges and Magistrates, and that two agents have been sent to the mufassal by the editor with those letters in order to secure new subscribers by the influence of the mufassal authorities. Such conduct on the part of Mr. Risley is open to objection.

The *Hindoo Patriot* has contradicted Mr. Digby's statement, supported by facts and figures, that poverty is fast increasing among the populace in India. The present editor of the *Hindoo Patriot* may think that poverty is not increasing in India, but its late editor did not think so, and was unremitting in his exertions to improve the condition of his countrymen. Perhaps the present editor is seeing the condition of the country through the eyes of the officials, and has therefore found the country to be in prosperous circumstances.

Again, there appeared lately in the *Hindoo Patriot*, three paragraphs justifying Government's action in appropriating the road cess fund for the purpose of famine relief. The writer is ready to prove that the paragraphs emanated from Mr. Risley's office. That the road cess fund was not originally intended for famine relief may not be known to the present editor of the *Hindoo Patriot*, but was known well enough to the late editor of the paper, and to the entire zamindar community of Bengal.

Lastly, the *Hindoo Patriot* is maintaining a strange silence regarding Mr. Phillips's doings in Mymensingh, though accounts of that officer's oppressions are being published even in the *Statesman* newspaper. So long as Mr. Phillips



confined his *zulm* to the poorer people, it is not difficult to see why the *Patriot* should have kept itself silent in the matter. But it is not very easy to explain its silence even now when Mr. Phillips has extended his oppressions to the zamindars. Is not the *Hindoo Patriot* an organ of the zamindars? No, it is not an organ of the entire zamindar community; it is the organ of only one or two Calcutta zamindars. And, then, there is the fact that the *Hindoo Patriot* has been favoured with letters of introduction to district officers, whose misdoings it cannot therefore well write against. But the *Patriot* does not spare the officials of the North-Western Provinces.

61. The following cooly case has been communicated to the same paper by a correspondent:—

SANJIVANI,  
June 18th, 1892.

Fraudulent recruitment of a cooly. Having had occasion on the 1st June last, to pay a visit to the Deputy Commissioners' Court in Dibrugarh, Assam, I found there a girl aged about fifteen or sixteen wailing most piteously. On being questioned, she related the following story:—Her name is Nuni, her husband's name is Nona, inhabitant of Lalbazar in Purulia, and her father's name is Lodai Pathar, a milkman by catse and inhabitant of Daila in Purulia. One day, on going to a tank at her husband's house to draw water, she was met by a neighbour of her father's, named Hari Majhi, who told her that he had been sent to take her to her father's house as her mother was seriously ill. She at once followed the man without taking the permission of her husband, lest he should object to her going. The man led her by a strange road not known to her, and arrived at Assensole, where she was forced to enter a railway carriage, and was conveyed to Raniganj. On arrival at Raniganj, she was confined in a room under lock and key. Here she began to cry. But she was again conveyed by force to Dhubri, where somebody asked her name and place of residence, saying that he would send her home. She communicated her name to the interrogator, but no one sent her home. From Dhubri, she had been taken to Dibrugarh. On arriving at the ghat at Dibrugarh, her wailings attracted the notice of the saheb at the ghat, who heard her story and sent her to the Deputy Commissioner. After hearing this story, I put her the following questions and received replies as follows:—

Question—Why did you give an agreement at Dhubri?

Answer—I never gave any such thing.

Q.—Have the *arkati's* men or anybody else given you any money?

A.—(Weeping) Give money to me! Why, Hari Majhi has taken from me even the ornaments I had on my person, worth Rs. 40, and also beat me.

Q.—Why then did you come with Hari Majhi, without getting your husband's permission?

A.—I came away with Hari Majhi, lest my husband should decline to give me permission to go to see my mother.

Q.—There is no help now; you must go and work in the tea garden.

A.—No, I won't go there. I have my husband, I have my brothers. I won't leave them.

Q.—But there is no help now. When the agreement has been executed, the tea company's men won't let you go away. They will carry you anyhow to the garden. The girl now began to cry and told us that she had rather commit suicide than go to the garden. She entreated the bystanders to send her home. I assured her that if the tea company's men allowed her to go away, I should undertake to send her home. On this she said that the *mem* saheb too (meaning the wife of the officer in charge of the steamer ghat) had promised to pay all the expenses of her journey home.

Q.—Did you relate your story to the *mem* saheb? What did she say?

A.—Yes, I told her everything. She has written a letter to my husband, and promised to pay all the expenses of my journey if the tea garden men allow me to go away.

Q.—Have you laid your complaint before the Deputy Commissioner?

A.—Yes, the case will be decided to-day.

Q.—On what day did you come here?

A.—By yesterday's steamer.

Q.—Have you eaten anything?

A.—Yes, a little to-day.



After a short time the case was called, when even the Deputy Commissioner seemed to feel compassion for the poor girl. But he had to act according to the law, and consequently ordered her to go for the present to the garden, adding that if enquiries at Dhubri and Purulia proved her statements to be correct, she should be sent home. On hearing this order the girl began to wail loudly before the Deputy Commissioner, saying that she would commit suicide rather than go to the garden. She was removed from the court by those who had brought her there.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 19th, 1892.

The water-supply question.

62. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 19th June, says as follows:—

Some people say that if a water-supply fund is established, it will have to be made over to Government for administration. But how can they, who can not expect Government to make a proper use of the proceeds of the public works cess, believe that it will make a proper use of the water-supply fund? Speaking for himself, the writer cannot distrust Government so much as to think that it will continue to misuse the proceeds of the public works cess, even when the fact that it has been misusing the same has been pointed out to it. Government does not think that it is under any obligation to spend any portion of its revenue on any definite or specific object. Its practice is to spend its revenue, from whatever source arising, on whatever purpose it thinks that it ought to be spent for the time being. Thus it spent the proceeds of the license tax, though ostensibly imposed for the purpose of establishing a famine fund, on a war with Afghanistan. But this much must be said in its favour that directly people agitated against the misappropriation of the proceeds of that tax, it took the hint and separated the famine fund. And the writer thinks that Government may be induced to take a similar course, and may set apart the proceeds of the public works cess for the purpose of excavating tanks. Moreover, it is a mistake to think that it will be easier to establish a water-supply fund than to induce Government to set apart the proceeds of the public works cess. It will at any time take time to induce Government to construct a water-supply fund, and to make arrangements for its collection and administration.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 19th, 1892.

Mr. Mackay on the Exchange question.

63. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 19th June, has the following:—

If the Government of India accepts the solution of the exchange question as given in the *Times*, namely, that half the salary of the European officers of Government should be paid at the rate of twenty pence to the rupee, the result will be a heavy addition to the loss which it suffers every year on account of exchange. The suggestion put forward by the *Times* is certainly one which will prove acceptable to the officers for whose benefit it has been made, and Mr. Mackay is mistaken if he thinks, as evidently he does, that it will not have the effect of removing their discontent. There is every reason to think that these officers will feel satisfied with the proposed arrangement, for, as a rule, they do not remit more than half their salary to England, and if they can get this half at the rate of twenty pence to the rupee, in other words, if the loss which they now suffer in making these remittances to England is borne by the Indian Government, there will be for them no ground of complaint. The other half of their salary will be paid in silver, but as it will be spent in expenses in this country, they will not be losers in any way for getting it in silver. Mr. Mackay has made a mistake in calculating the amount of loss which Government will incur if it accepts the suggestion of the *Times*. He proceeds on the erroneous assumption that the European officers of Government remit the whole of their salary to England, and he, therefore, comes to the erroneous conclusion that if they are paid, half their salary at one rate and half at another, the average rate will be much smaller than twenty pence to the rupee, and will not, therefore, satisfy those officers. This, as we have pointed out, is a wrong assumption, for those officers do not, as a rule, find it possible to remit more than half their salaries to England. And so, instead of taking exception to the *Times*' proposal, they will have every reason to feel satisfied if, on account of their remittances to the extent of one-half of their salary they do not suffer loss by exchange. The adoption of the *Times*' proposal will only increase the financial embarrassment of the Indian Government, and render heavier the already heavy burden of taxation that presses on the Indians.



64. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 20th June, has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
June 20th, 1892.

The *Sanjivani* on the *Hindoo Patriot*.

The *Sanjivani* is a Brahmo paper, and it seems that the bitterness of its recent attack upon the *Hindoo Patriot* is the outcome of its piety. Not content with giving vent to its spleen against the *Patriot*, the *Sanjivani* proceeds to say, evidently with the view of injuring the prestige of that paper, that "300 copies of the *Hindoo Patriot* are subscribed for by the zamindar members of the British Indian Association, 150 copies by Government, and only 150 copies by the people of this country." Now, this statement is either untrue, or the *Sanjivani* has used unfair means to get a list of the *Patriot's* subscribers. Either way, the *Sanjivani* is guilty of a grave offence. Our Brahmo contemporary seems eager to prosecute people off and on for defamation. But what if the *Patriot* were now to prosecute our contemporary itself for libel? That the *Sanjivani* is bent upon injuring the *Patriot* is clear from its paragraph from which the above sentence is extracted. But the *Patriot* is not a Brahmo paper, and its editor will not seek the protection of a law court to vindicate his honour and good name. He will not surely approve of the conduct of those people who go to court to protect their honour against defamatory attacks. Like ourselves, the *Patriot* too fully understands that protecting honour with the help of a law court is not an act which really protects honour or adds to it.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

65. The *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 25th May, and the *Samvadvahika*, of the 26th May, report a few showers of rain from the Balasore district, but point out that the price of rice is as high as ever.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
May 25th, 1892.

Price of rice in the Balasore district.

66. Referring to the method in which Government is supplying communications intended for publication to the Calcutta Press Association, the *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 25th May, suggests that steps should be taken to supply such communications to mufassal papers.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
May 25th, 1892.

Government's communication with the press.

67. The *Samvadvahika*, of the 26th May, is sorry to learn that certain lower classes of people in the Basta and Baliapa thánas of the Balasore district have taken to stealing cattle belonging to poor cultivators. They sometimes kill the cattle with impunity, and sell their hides to distant traders. At other times they sell the cattle in distant stations, whither they cannot be easily traced.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
May 26th, 1892.

Cattle-lifting in the Balasore district.

68. The *Utkaldipika*, of the 28th May, does not consider it advisable to punish poor men in Anantapur in the Sono thána, of the Balasore district, for manufacturing salt in small quantities with the object of saving themselves from starvation as rice in that part of the district is selling at a famine price.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
May 28th, 1892.

Manufacture of salt by poor people.

69. Referring to the judgment of the Calcutta High Court in the case of Gopinath Parija and others *versus* Mr. T. Butler, in which Mr. Butler stationed in a mufassal station of the Cuttack district, was beaten by some people

UTKALDIPIKA  
May 28th, 1892.

Use of canal water for irrigation purposes,

of the neighbourhood for removing a *bund* which they had placed across a drain for the purpose of carrying its water to their fields, when such water was being urgently needed to save their standing crop, the *Utkaldipika*, of the 28th May, points out that the *bund*, if allowed to stand for a day or two, could not have done any possible injury to anybody, that the poor raiyats who wanted to save their crops from the effects of drought had already represented their condition to the District Collector and had not time to wait for the orders of that officer, that Mr. Butler had enough time to take official action had he chosen to do so, and that he must be presumed to have known the law better than the ignorant people who opposed him. The paper therefore advises His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to go through the details of the case and to make such rules for the future guidance of officers connected with the management of canals and drains, as will make their water serviceable for the purpose of saving standing crops all around them, when such a step is not found impracticable or injurious.



## ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK,  
June 13th, 1892.

70. The *Paridarshak*, of the 13th June, says that considering the backwardness of Assam in educational matters, the proposal of Mr. Ward to select men by competitive examination for the subdeputyship of the province as in Bengal, is one that will bring forth no good for the Assamese. Mr. Ward should devise some other means of admitting into the subordinate service, pure natives of the province in large numbers.

PARIDARSHAK.

71. The same paper approves of the proposal of the Assam Government to award the senior scholarships of the province according to the merits of the successful candidates at the F. A. examination, of the Calcutta University. In this connection, the writer would also propose that if a holder of an Assam Government scholarship gets a Bengal Government scholarship at the F. A. examination, his Assam scholarship should be transferred to some other deserving student who does not hold a Bengal scholarship. Education in Assam is still in a very backward condition and the Government ought to do everything to encourage it.

PARIDARSHAK.

72. The same paper fails to see the reason of the sudden increase of the salary of Mr. Darrah, Director and Land Records and Agriculture, Assam, from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,800. And the increase becomes all the more inexplicable when it is considered that various charges have been brought against Mr. Darrah from time to time. Take the following :—

- (1) He is said to oppress his subordinates.
- (2) He has made a few unworthy persons among his office subordinates his special favourites, and they are fattening under his patronage.
- (3) He has unjustly dismissed two officers under him, without assigning any reason for so doing.
- (4) He is said to spend in contingencies all fines and refunds from salaries which ought to be deposited with Government.

The last charge against Mr. Darrah ought to be carefully enquired into.

PARIDARSHAK.

73. The same paper says that since the Manipur war, the *begar* system has become a great instrument of oppression in the hands of the police, and the people smart under it.

Lately the tea-planters of Assam protested against this practice and requested Government to keep coolies of its own for commissariat transport. The oppressions which are committed under the *begar* system are a disgrace of the British rule and ought to be speedily removed.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 25th June 1892.